



MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

held on **Tuesday 24th March 2026**
at 8pm in St Mary's Church

Present: Kelvin Price (Chairman), Jean Brown, Mike Donovan, Hugh James, Bryan Jones, Catherine Lewis, Rachel Lewis, Roy Milnes, Anne Morris, Mark Sanderson and Alun Thomas.

1. Election of Vice Chairman

Proposed: Roy Milnes

Seconded: Alun Thomas

Unanimous

It was resolved to elect Hugh James as vice chairman of the PCC.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Hugh James

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Rachel Lewis as secretary to the PCC.

3. Appointment of Treasurer

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Hugh James

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Roy Milnes as treasurer of the PCC.

4. Appointment of sidespersons

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Alun Thomas

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint as sidespersons:

Mrs Val Benyon

Mrs Sally Beswick

Mrs Sue Clerk

Mr Martin Clerk

Mr Paul Cummings

Mr Julian Hallett

Mrs Jean Harrison

Mrs Judith Hazelton

Mr William Hazelton

Mrs Teresa Hough

Mrs Anne Hughes

Mr David Hughes

Mr David Jenkins

Mr Peter Jenkins

Mrs Judith Landau

Mrs Sarah McGilveray

Mrs Pat Milnes

Mr Roy Milnes

Mrs Janet Nelson

Mr Nick Nelson

Ms Anne Remmington

Mrs Marilyn Reynolds

Mr Peter Reynolds

Mrs Susan Ryan

Mr Bob Ryan

Mrs Ann Stirrup

Mr Alun Thomas

Mrs Helen Wynn

Mrs Margaret Willis

5. Dates of future meetings

It was proposed that the next meetings of the PCC take place at 7.00pm on Tuesdays, 19th May 2026, 21st July 2026, 15th September 2026, 17th November 2026, 19th January 2027 and 9th March 2027, with the next APCM on Tuesday 16th March 2027.

6. AOB – Standing Committee

The PCC agreed that in addition to the Rector and churchwardens, Roy Milnes, Peter Reynolds, Mike Donovan and Rachel Lewis would join the Standing Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm with the Grace



19th May 2026.

At 7.14pm Judith Wiggins left the meeting

5 Minutes of the last meeting

to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026

6 Finance Report

i. to note a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary actions

The treasurer was pleased to announce that Keith Ray has agreed to act as Independent Examiner.

He asked the PCC to agree that we continue with a cash accounting system.

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to continue to produce the Church accounts on a cash accounting basis whilst income remains below £500,000 per annum.

ii. to receive and accept the audited 2025 accounts

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous

It was resolved to accept the audited 2025 accounts and authorise the chairman of the meeting to sign them

iii. to approve the budget for 2026

Proposed: Bryan Jones Seconded: Jean Brown unanimous

It was resolved to approve the budget for 2026

At 7.24pm Roy Milnes left the meeting

7 Rector's report

to receive information on the following and take any necessary actions

- Benefice Strategy Day – 25th April, 10am. A meeting for PCC members in the benefice with lunch at the home of Gay Chinn (Walford). Members were reminded that they need to confirm attendance with Rachel if they have not already done so.
- BBQ/lunch and Evensong – 26th July. We have been offered a pig by Tim Hanks (butcher) for a hog roast. The Rector is proposing a celebratory thank you lunch for all, followed by an early Evensong (3pm).
- Sight-Friendly Church – we have now registered to become a "Sight Friendly" church. Large print service sheets is one of the aspects of this which we are pursuing.
- Compassion – it was agreed that Kelvin should invite someone from Compassion, a sponsorship scheme to help children in the poorest countries, to preach one Sunday.
- Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment – the Rector explained that the amount of administration Judith has to do in order to comply with the many regulations is overwhelming at times. Someone is needed to help Judith, a volunteer if possible, but if no-one is able, to either use the office (extra time would be needed) or pay someone else as and when needed. Kelvin has a role description if anyone is interested or has any ideas of anyone who might be interested in taking this on.

8 Ross Spire in Peril Fundraising Committee

i. to receive, accept and adopt Terms of Reference for the committee as circulated (on the website)

The PCC also wished to record its thanks to Ant Schroeder for his time and expertise in this.

KE

Proposed: Jane Rothery Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous

It was resolved to accept and adopt the Terms of Reference as included in Appendix A of these minutes

- ii. to appoint members of the committee
- iii. to appoint the chairman and the secretary

Proposed: Jane Rothery Seconded: Jean Brown unanimous

It was resolved to appoint the following to be the initial members of the committee:

The Revd Prebendary Kelvin Price (incumbent), Mark Sanderson (Churchwarden and trustee of the Friends of St Mary's), Bryan Jones (Churchwarden), Jane Rothery (member of the PCC), Bill Fulp (trustee of the Friends of St Mary's), Caroline Utting (trustee of the Friends of St Mary's), Mike Heylings (member of St Mary's congregation), Elizabeth Walker (Tower Captain), Dave Blackham (supporter of St Mary's), Malcolm Jones (Ross resident), Anthony Schroeder (Ross resident), Julian Utting (Ross-on-Wye Town Councillor and Ross resident) and Keith Ray (Ross resident);

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Jane Rothery, as chair of the committee; and Anthony Schroeder, as secretary to the committee.

9 Churchwardens' Report

to receive a written report from the churchwardens and take any necessary actions

- Pinnacles and spire

Following her initial work agreed at the last meeting and paid for with money from the Historic Churches Trust, Mark was pleased to report that Hannah Vernon had successfully taken us through the first stage of the National Heritage Lottery Fund application. The NHLF are happy for her to submit an application for the next stage.

In order to continue to use Hannah's services, a letter of engagement would be sent to her to show due diligence and ensure we were acting within charity guidelines. A copy of the letter will be circulated to members.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Jane Rothery unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Hannah Vernon as a professional fundraiser. The PCC to agree a maximum cost for each stage of the work before that work is started.

For this next stage of work Hannah estimates her costs will be £5,000. This £5,000 would be included in the grant received if the application is successful - if it were not - then the PCC would have to stand the loss. In principle the PCC were in agreement with this but without the treasurer present it was agreed to give the Standing Committee authority to make that decision.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Alun Thomas unanimous

It was resolved to authorise the Standing Committee to make the decision to approve the cost of £5,000 for Hannah to carry out the next stage of the National Heritage Lottery Fund application.

- Progress report on sanctuary floor and churchyard wall

Work to the floor is scheduled for June. All permissions have been granted.

The work to the wall by the carpark has now been completed.

- Churchyard Closure
 - We are waiting for Herefordshire Council to confirm arrangements for the handover.
 - The Biffa contract ends on 28th March
 - We need to confirm that they are happy for the Probation Service to continue their excellent work which Malcom Jones has offered to oversee.

KL

- Another wall has collapsed at the back of the churchyard. Bryan will check to see if it is listed.
- Roof and Gullies

Nothing further to report.

10 Eco Church Working Group

to receive a report from the group

Mark explained that our current boiler is nearing the end of its life and we need to be prepared for when it finally finishes. It was noted that some churches have suddenly been left with no heat when their boilers die and this leads to diminished congregations, inability to use the church for activities and the deterioration of the building.

Rosie reported that as part of our efforts to achieve net carbon zero, we are looking at new ways of heating the church. She and Mark have met with three church heating specialists, who are putting their proposals for a specification, one of which will need to be selected and then funded. Our church architect is due to meet with Rosie and Mark to agree evaluation criteria.

Once the plan has been selected, the second stage will be the implementation of the plan, employing appropriate heating engineers and electricians to install the new heating system.

Hannah Vernon has suggested that costs of the heating system should be added to the major fundraising bid in order to keep the church fit for purpose.

In addition, the architect will assess whether or not the roof is capable of supporting solar panels.

11 St Mary's Hall

to receive a verbal report from the Hall Committee

Secondary double glazing downstairs appears to be making a difference with costs going down slightly and the room being warmer. If Turning Point renew their contract, double glazing will be installed upstairs.

Bookings are good and the account is gradually climbing.

12 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report and take any necessary actions

All is good.

13 Deanery Report

to note a report of the Deanery Gathering which met on March 4th.

The report was noted.

14 Date of next Meeting

to note the APCM is on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7pm in church and will be followed by a meeting of the PCC straight afterwards.

These dates were noted.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.39pm.

